

Tips & Techniques

Welcome, we are happy that you have decided to become a part of OPR and have volunteered your services. The following examples are meant to help simplify some of the requirements on restoring photos. Within the Forum, you will find more techniques explained in greater detail.

The choice of software to help restore photos is strictly a personal preference. For simplicity, the examples shown will be from PhotoShop.

File Extension



The file extension is how we keep track of each individual families pictures. We need for all of the information to remain intact when you upload the photo restored. You may at the end of the dimension, add your initials or add done.

Example: HeniseyC_A2_03_3x3done.jpg

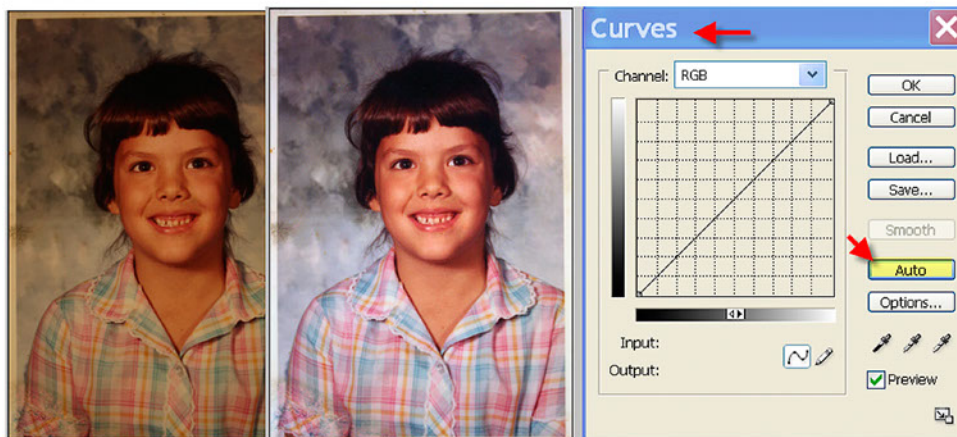
All photos will have a resolution of 300 dpi, which is the requirement for printing.

When you download your photo, it is recommended that you save the original and do your restoring on a copy. When you have finished, give your copy the same extension as the original with an optional done on the end.

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Color Correction

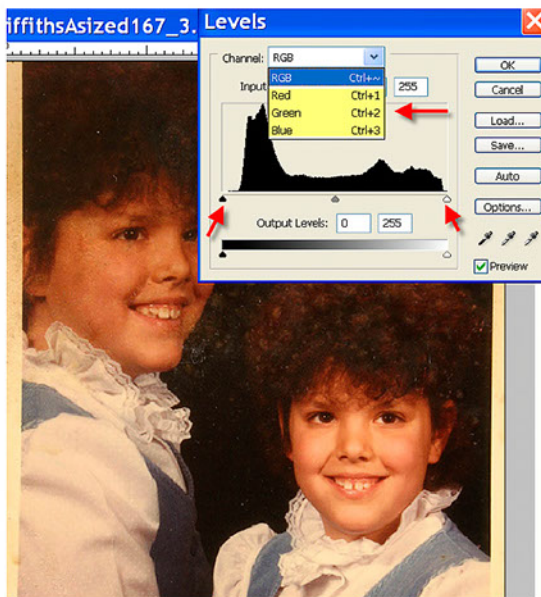
Most of the photos you will be restoring need some basic color correction. Because of water damage and age, this can be tricky. The following examples will show you a few easy ways and for the harder to correct photos, you may have to experiment to see what gives the best results. Final color correction will be handled by Quality Control and the printer.



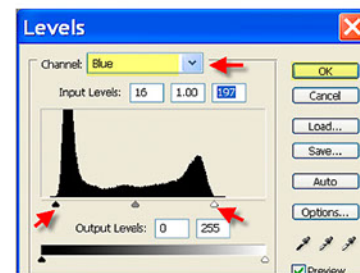
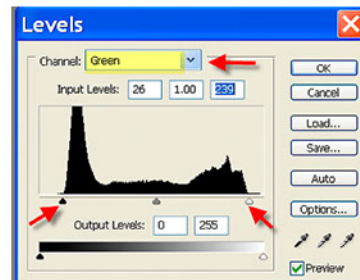
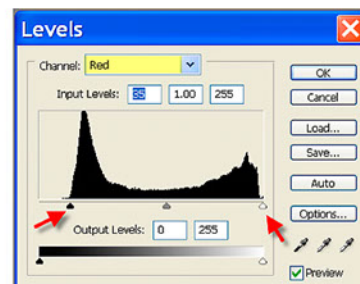
The example above was done with a simple Curves Adjustment layer. By hitting Auto, PhotoShop is deciding the correct white balance. There will be plenty of times, when this technique will not be enough correction. On the next page will be an example of how to use Levels to target each of the three channels.

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Color Correction--Level's Adjustment



On the Layers Palette, go to the bottom and choose Levels from the fly out menu. On the drop down menu, you will see the Red, Green, and Blue channels listed separately. Click on each of these channels and move the sliders from both sides into the dark area. Do **NOT** hit OK until you have changed all three channels.



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Color Correction--Level's Adjustment



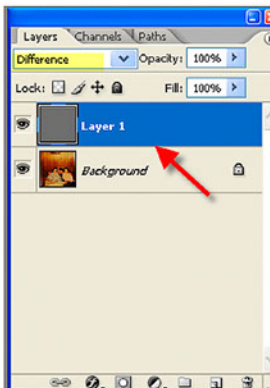
After doing the Level's adjustment, there will still be some needed adjustments to restore photo..



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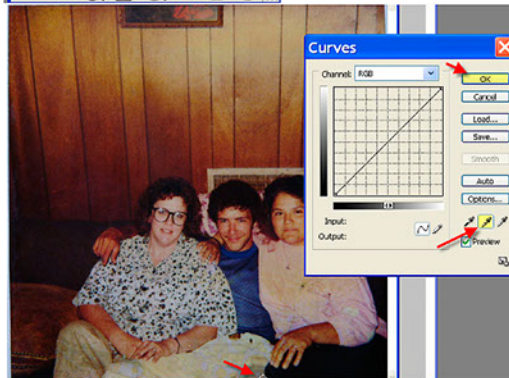
Color Correction--Neutral Gray Balance (Dave Cross Method)

Some photos may have a heavy color cast that is hard to correct. The problem may be damage or the lighting under which the photo was taken. On both the Curves and Levels Adjustment layers, there are eyedroppers for black, gray, and white to sample. Some photos may not have a true black or white to set the color by. Your next choice is to find a neutral gray.



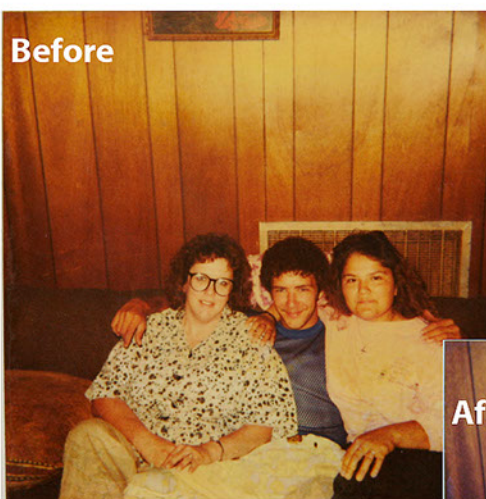
Finding Neutral Gray

1. Add a new layer with Overlay as the Mode.
2. Check the box for 50% gray
3. On your Layers Menu, change the blending mode to Difference.
4. Screen will turn dark
5. Look for an area totally black
6. Use the Color Sampler Tool to mark the spot
7. Discard Layer 1
8. Add a Curves Adjustment Layer and take the middle gray eye drop-and sample the marked spot.

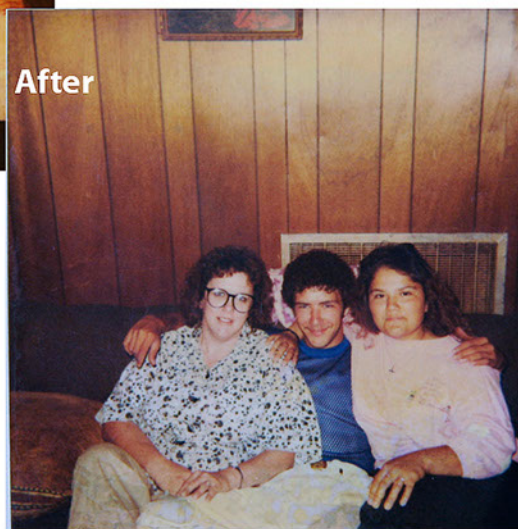


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Color Correction--Neutral Gray Balance



The stubborn yellow cast has been removed from the original and now the photo is ready to have individual areas tweaked as far as color correction. The yellow stain on the girl's pink sweater will be done by restoring the damage area to match the rest of the sweater.



Restoration Guidelines



Original

Damaged

The family of Ms. Spud hopes that OPR will be able to restore the picture to its original condition.

Some of the problems needing correcting will be the color cast and tears in the picture. There is also some question as to what Ms. Spud is holding in her hand.



Restored

The family is so delighted with the results of the restoration.

The photo has had a color correction and all of the damages have been fixed. The volunteer was able to tell from information on one of the color channels that Ms. Spud was holding a frog—later to turn into her Prince Charming!



Rejected

This restoration will not clear Quality Control for the following reasons:

1. Color changes that are not true to the original photo.
2. Ms. Spud's skin has been softened and all of her blemishes removed.
3. A vignette has been added.
4. The addition of articles not in the original.
5. Ms. Spud's smile has been altered as well as having blinding white teeth.
6. The family would be shocked to see that she is now holding an apple!